

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 L-03

H-02 AID-05 AGR-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 /076 W

----- 127842

R 301447Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6767

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 4323

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN EAID BE ADCOR EEC

SUBJECT: SUBJECT: CURRENT BELGIAN VIEWS ON IFAD

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 738, (B) STATE 97760

1. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY BRUSSELS WAS NOT AN ADDRESSEE ON THE REFERENCED DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM, WE ASSUME THAT THE OMISSION WAS INADVERTENT. WE HAVE THEREFORE OBTAINED BELGIUM'S PRESENT VIEWS ON THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE SPOKE SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF CONTINUING FRENCH OPPOSITION, BELGIUM HAS GIVEN UP HOPE OF A JOINT EC PLEDGE. THE MINISTRY IS THUS RECOMMENDING THAT BELGIUM PROCEED WITH A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO IFAD EQUAL TO WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ITS PROPORTIONAL EC SHARE (I.E., LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6-1/2 PERCENT). ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, WE ARE TOLD THAT

THIS WILL AMOUNT TO BF 500 MILLION SPREAD EVENLY OVER BUDGET YEARS 1976-78. THIS CONTRIBUTION WILL BE CONTINUED ON AN OVERALL OPEC CONTRIBUTION SUFFICIENT TO MATCH THAT OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND MORE OR LESS EQUITABLE BURDEN SHARING WITHIN THE EC. THIS LATTER POINT IS TO PRESSURE THE FRENCH INTO AT LEAST A TOKEN CONTRIBUTION.

3. A FINAL BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION ON IFAD SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL PRESUMABLY ANNOUNCE ITS CONTRIBUTION AT THAT TIME. UNTIL THEN, REQUEST THAT THE PROBABLE CONGRIBUTION CITED ABOVE NOT BE MADE PUBLIC OR DISCUSSED WITH CONGRESS. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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